

Seabrook May 25th, 1843.

(84)

My Dear Friend:

The note I received last night from "the little lady" informed me of the letters rec^d from J. S. J. & E. S. L. of their contents. As I was at all the ~~meetings~~ ^{meetings} of the Com. of 25, which did all the business - I thought it best to send you an account of my ~~unpleasant~~ ^{recollections} of what was done in it touching this matter. W. Loring was not present, I believe, the first evening when it was settled. The question was - what was to be done with the Am. Soc.? It was concluded on all hands that there was ~~nothing~~ ^{not} material in N. Y. to make an effective Ex. Com. - J. S. J. being in effect the only person of whom the Soc. knew anything. It was on this point chiefly that Garrison, Collins & others urged the removal of the Soc. to Boston. Earle early in the evening suggested that a quorum of the Ex. Com. should be appointed ~~from~~ ^{in the neighborhood of} Boston, by whom the business should be done - while the nominal position of the Soc. should still be at N. Y. This being ^{a new & idea} to all of us did not meet with much favor from any of us, at first, - those of us who were opposed to the removal of the Soc. thinking his proposition amounted to pretty much the same thing, - Garrison & the others who wished the removal to take place, saying their own measure in preference. So we battled the point till late in the evening when I threw a wet blanket over their plan by suggesting that the friends in Boston upon whom the probably depended to serve on the committee, would probably decline taking office - as strong was their

sense of the inexpediency & mischievous tendency of the removal
of the Soc. Wendell confirming my position - this matter was
abandoned though with no good will on the part of the movement
party. Then the suggestion of Laue was taken up & on consid-
eration we all came to the opinion that it was the best
way of settling the business. That the Soc. could remain
to all intents & purposes as far as the world & New Eng.
were concerned, at N. Y., while the business would be done
in Boston by persons well known to the Abolitionists throughout
the Country. It was fully understood, as I conceive, that every-
thing was to be done by the quorum in Boston. That the
Committee in N. Y. was to be a mere roi faineant. The very
fact of the Committee of 25 (which was the Soc. in fact,) recommending
the appointment of a quorum in Boston proves
that - for why have a quorum there except for the
purpose of doing business? For all advisory purposes, one
or two or none, would answer as well as a dozen. For the
Lord knows, & James too for that matter, that we were
not sparing of our advice last year in our individual
capacity whatever ~~might~~ ^{may} have been its fate. As to concurrent
quorums, we see B. gone in N. Y., it is more folly to think
of such a thing. The work must be done by one Committee
or the other on its own responsibility. The Com. of 25
meant that we should do it - and all the members of the Soc.
to whom I mentioned the arrangement regarded it as the
only one that could infuse life into its operations. I am
the more surprised at James' scruples, because I

am so confident that he understood the whole
matter provided in it at the time. The very question
of the possible collision of the two branches of the committee
was discussed - & he assured us (or me) that it could
not happen. He said that he Mr. Child had been the
Ex. Com. in effect - I believe, that there had not been
a single Com. meeting during the year. Why then this
sudden resurrection of the Com. now? ~ The plain
English of the matter is this - there is nobody
that the Abolitionists know anything about in N.Y.,
except Johnson & consequently no one in whom they
can have any confidence. Whosever heard of anything
else than that is on the Com.? Such a Com. can
swill do nothing but look after the Standard, and
every now & then run crying to us for money. They must
come to us because the Abolitionists not knowing them
will not give them money except through persons
whom they look to us, we should be in a position to hold them from the whole country.
about they do know. Now we are willing to take
the trouble & responsibility of doing the Soc's business
but then we must do it by ourselves, without
reference to anybody else, as having any authority
in the premises. This was what the Soc. meant should
be done, I know. We must do all or nothing -
except in the way of friendly advice as we have
always done. All this should be said as plainly

as possible to James with as much regard to
civility as is consistent with such a statement as
cannot be misunderstood. His suggestion of the
view of the Com. then that they had better have no
meetings - is in effect the very best one they have
made. They had much better not - & I had no
idea, from what I understood James to say, that
they ever would. W. Loring had better write
all this to James as soon as possible - so that
a perfect understanding may be arrived at at
once - for we must go to work & get money next
week at the Convention in some way. We must
continue our way, (& I think I send) of letting
the friends know that we are the responsible
without publishing it in ^{the papers} ~~the papers~~.
working people - I believe that we shall
see a new life inspired in the Soc. As
to the Constitutional questions of James, Loring
must get over them as best he may - but it
is absurd to let a paper constitution stand
in the way of the real life of the Society.
Of course, Jackson, Loring, Phillips & I
(to say nothing of Anna, Remond myself) are
not the Am. Soc. who the — is the Am. Soc.

The book of records should be sent
 on the work done here "Institution
 or no Institution - Compact or no Compact"
 as Garrison says. This should be
 done at once, probably has been
 done. Let me know as matters
 evolve. I write in the hottest
 of haste as I am afraid of losing
 the case and not sure that I
 make myself clear - but
 no matter. I shall probably
 have an opportunity to turn this afternoon
 in which case I will answer my little
 Enquirer note. Love to her & Bern.
 Faithfully
 E. Z.

Ms H. G. Chapman.

39 Summer St.

Paid.
R. Rood.